

SECTION 1. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY OF PLAN

Crown Hill and Ballard are poised for an exciting future as the population and economic vitality of our community grow. We are lucky to have assets including a strong historical identity, public waterways, economic diversity and stability, and motivated and active citizens.

Because of these assets, we are well positioned to build on our historic strengths as we move into the 21st century. The challenge will be to manage growth so that our high quality of life is retained. To meet that challenge, Crown Hill and Ballard joined forces in 1995 to plan for our community and incorporated as the Crown Hill/Ballard Neighborhood Planning Association (CH/B NPA) to do this work together.

Phase I Outreach

During Phase I of the neighborhood planning process, CH/B NPA used a variety of methods to reach out and gather feedback from the community. Throughout a year of collecting information from hundreds of people, several general themes emerged:

- People like the, small-town feeling of our community, they like the single-family nature of the neighborhoods, and they like having diverse businesses close enough to walk to.
- People have concerns about too much traffic, too few jobs, and buildings that do not “fit” the rest of the community.
- People want more trees and parks, a completed Burke-Gilman Trail, strong economic vitality, and a regional library. “ ” “ ” “ ”

Phase II Planning

As Phase I drew to a close at the end of 1996, preparations began for Phase II activities. A 15-member Board of Directors was elected from the community to carry on the task of developing plans to meet the visions that emerged in Phase I. These 15 members, as well as many other interested residents and business owners, have put in thousands of volunteer hours addressing hundreds of different elements that go into making up a strong and healthy community. For example,

- Developing a comprehensive and creative business revitalization strategy for Crown Hill and central Ballard that recognizes the importance of small local businesses in creating awareness of our community as a place to come. “ ” “ ” “ ”
- Preparing neighborhood-specific design guidelines that acknowledge our history, respect the scale and character of existing buildings in commercial districts, and promote responsible development.
- Developing a comprehensive transportation strategy that honors commercial and industrial transportation needs for movement of goods, including possible rail use.
- Creating a public-private partnership to make sure local government understands and supports community priorities.

- **Supporting existing zoning for stability.**
- **Maintaining and further developing the balance and vitality of all three business sectors—industrial, commercial, and retail—with emphasis on a variety of goods and services.**
- **Developing an ongoing publicity campaign with, brochures and kiosks to promote Ballard as a healthy “city within a city” with a Scandinavian and maritime heritage, a strong residential base, a rich past, and a great future.**
- **Encouraging tourism and making our community more attractive to visitors through such strategies as linking the Locks and the Ballard Landmark District with central Ballard.**

Hundreds of hours of workshops, focus groups, town meetings, and committee meetings have been held to solicit community response along the way. ‘Citizens have’ been kept informed through the Ballard News Tribune and issues of the CH/B NPA newsletter Connections throughout the planning process. In April 1998, a Validation Issue was mailed to households, business and property owners in or near Crown Hill and Ballard urban villages leading to the culmination of these efforts, two public validation meetings.

The Crown Hill/Ballard Neighborhood Planning Association Board reviewed all the comments it received by the May 18 comment deadline. Based on the comments received, the Board recommended revisions to its final plan for submittal to City Council. The Board presented its plan to the Neighborhoods, Growth Planning, and Civic Engagement Committee of the ‘City Council on May 26, 1998. Council will hold a public hearing to receive comments on the plan on June 30. Following this hearing, there will ,” be a Council discussion of the plan midsummer. If there are no substantive changes to ‘the plan, it is expected that Council will approve and adopt the plan in late summer.